

Dear Members of the City Council,

The following is a summary of recent activities over the past week:

Code Enforcement

Wilson Park: Responded to a request from our Outreach Team to assist in an interview of a transient reported sleeping overnight at the park. **Interviewed the male transient who came to CM from Santa Ana and admitted sleeping in the park overnight. Transient reported being kicked out of a family member's house where he was living in Santa Ana. Transient was warned about camping in the park at night and we suggested he go back to the family house.**

73/55 Freeway Area (near Bristol St.): Reported encampment still exists after numerous contacts with occupants. Have not observed anyone at the encampment since 5/29/2016, but there is a large amount of items at encampment. This is county property and they are aware. **County scheduled to clear all encampments in that area this weekend (5/7, 8/2016).**

2100 Block of Harbor Blvd: Met with store manager to discuss his CM Connect issues regarding homeless issues. Small group of transients loitering on the property, panhandling and becoming aggressive when not allowed to use the bathroom. Bathrooms are getting trashed and used for drugs. **Gave manager sample of suggested "No trespass" sign and suggested he post on the exterior of the building. Told manager to call PD when issue occurs and he has the right to make a citizen's arrest for trespassing.**

Corner of 19th St. /Meyer Pl: During patrol, observed three known transients using a syringe on one another in public view. **Pulled over to be sure and they were not aware I witnessed. Called PD to report.**

Area of 19th St. /Meyer Pl: Numerous observations/complaints regarding unattended shopping carts filled with personal items and luggage scattered along both streets for days. **Will forward to PD.**

Issue 1 at 1900 Block of Meyer Pl: Continuous, growing transient encampment on business property. **It was suggested (approx. 1 month ago) that the owner post "No trespass" signs and call PD when group is encountered. Owner still has not posted signs. Violation Notice sent to owner.**

Issue 2 at 1900 Block of Meyer Pl: Observed large amount of unattended cart with items, trash scattered and pills scattered around public parkway. Concerned for school children walking around items and pills on ground. **Public Service and PD called to collect items but transient came to move the cart and items before PD arrived. Public Service was on hand but transient was made aware of not leaving items unattended and blocking the sidewalk. Transient said the items would be removed and trash picked up. Reminded transient of the seriousness of pills scattered where children could access.**

695 W. 19th St (Senior Center): Observed male transient hiding behind a wall near the building entrance. Female bus driver were there waiting to pick up seniors. **Contacted the male who quickly left. Bus drivers then felt safe enough to get out of the bus and go to the entrance.**

150 Block of Flower: Reported transient squatters in vacant building on property. Observed evidence of reported squatters. **Responsible builder notified and directed to better secure all structures until demo is complete. Builder to comply same day of request.**

3000 Block of Harbor (Target): Met with business manager and security regarding resident concerns of transients and drug users camping in the bushes behind the business. Observed evidence of reported issues. **Manager to have bushes thinned out to increase visibility, clean area and have security patrol area.**

700 Block of Baker St: Observed tent set up at rear of business. **PD called and transient moved from the property.**

Outreach

HOUSING LINKAGE: Outreach has successfully linked a client with Mercy House for deposit assistance. Outreach also began the process of linking a senior client with Mercy House deposit assistance that she will need in June.

DOCUMENTATION LINKAGE: Outreach linked a client to fill out paperwork requested by Social Security for his SSDI application. Also, with Outreach's assistance, a client who qualified for Rapid Re-Housing program submitted his final paperwork for his packet to be completed/processed for housing.

SUPPLEMENTAL SOCIAL SECURITY LINKAGE: Outreach assisted a client currently living in a shelter with his SSI appeal. Outreach ordered his marriage certificate, got in contact with his children for additional documentation, met the client in Fountain Valley to have his case reconsidered. His denial was overturned and he will now be receiving his retirement benefits as well as back payments.

SUPPLEMENTAL SOCIAL SECURITY LINKAGE: Outreach assisted a severely mentally-ill housed client get her SSI office in Anaheim regarding her disability benefits being reinstated. She was approved and her funds will be released to her. Outreach also contacted Medi-Cal and ordered her a new insurance card.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE LINKAGE: Outreach linked a client suffering from heroin addiction to a sober living placement. Outreach is working to ensure that she has a placement upon her discharge to minimize her chance of returning to drug use if she is left on the streets.

NONPROFIT LINKAGE: Outreach performed a home visit with a client housed in Anaheim and discussed options to assist her in moving forward now that she is housed. She agreed to go to Working Wardrobes for job placement and resume assistance.

CMPD COLLABORATION: Outreach responded to call from CMPD to assist with an older woman sitting in front of Rubio's. The woman was disoriented, lost, and not able to communicate well verbally. Outreach worked with CMPD and Triangle security guards, CM FIRE DEPT and the PERT team assisted the woman with returning to her board and care home in Los Angeles, where she was reported missing two days prior.

FIELD SUPPORT: Outreach went to the “Jungle” in Talbert Park with Park Rangers and came in contact with several individuals. Each person was given contact information for Outreach, a picnic pack, and told what resources might be available to them. They were asked to come the Outreach office for intake.

FIELD SUPPORT: Outreach patrolled Harbor, Newport Blvd, 19th Street, as well as Lions Park-- seeking new clients for County Outreach and Engagement to evaluate for mental health assistance. Outreach is also continuing follow up visits for housed clients—providing them with assistance such as food boxes, on an “as needed” basis.

COMMUNITY IMPACT TEAM: This week, the Community Impact Team (CIT) worked at Mariners Church and the Crossing Church on Monday doing landscaping, clean-up and maintenance and on Thursday, they worked at Rock Harbor Church as well, performing maintenance and clean up duties.

NEW CLIENT/INTAKE: Outreach did an intake on a client who was referred by the SOS Homeless Specialist. The client has been homeless for 15-16 years in CM. He originally came here with his now ex-wife. He has several disabilities including Parkinson’s disease. He became homeless due to his physical condition, making him unable to work. He is currently looking for housing and has been living in and out of a U-Haul truck.

INTAKE: Outreach contacted Volunteers of America to assist a client who came in during intake hours and stated he was a veteran. The client was given a bus pass to purchase a phone as well as visit the social services office to sign up for general relief (GR) and Medi-cal.

Network for Homeless Solutions

Over the past week, the city has experienced a marked increase in new homeless coming from the City of Santa Ana. This is due, in part, to a major public works project in the Santa Ana Civic Center that will commence with the replacement of water utility pipes (see links to articles below). The project, which displaced at least 100 homeless individuals, is expected to last through the latter part of May. However, the Civic Center area is due to undergo a more extensive renovation as part of a proposed project over the next 20 years and there is no certainty as to how these renovations will create additional displacement issues among the area’s estimated 500 homeless persons.

Areas in Costa Mesa seeing an increase of these displaced homeless are primarily in the West 19th Street corridor, but other encampment locations have popped up in other areas as well.

The City will maintain its resolve to assist those Costa Mesa residents in need so as not to exhaust scarce resources that are available. Residents and businesses who encounter homeless encampments on private property should contact the Costa Mesa Police Department's non-emergency line at (714) 754-5252.

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/county-704445-buildings-plan.html>

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/homeless-714421-smith-people.html>

<http://www.ocregister.com/articles/homeless-714503-area-people.html>